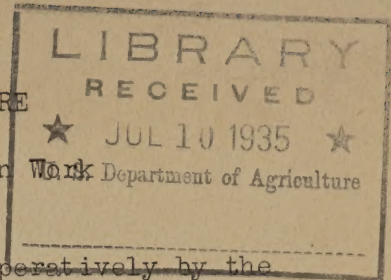


CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dr. C. W. Warburton, Director of Extension Work, Department of Agriculture



The Extension Service is operated and financed cooperatively by the Federal Government, the States, and the counties. The basic Federal Act is the Smith-Lever Act approved May 8, 1914, which provides annual grants to the States through the Department of Agriculture to the State Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges for the financing of Extension work. An administrative and specialist staff is maintained at each State College. The major part of the personnel is located in the counties as county agricultural and home demonstration agents. The present staff consists of more than 7,000 technically trained persons, including county agricultural agents in practically all counties, and home demonstration agents in about half of them. The purpose of the Extension Service is to make available to rural people the results of research of the Department of Agriculture and the State Agricultural Experiment Stations, and the best practices of practical farmers and home makers. The object of the Extension Service is to increase the incomes of rural people, improve their living standards, and make rural America a better place to live.

Contacts of county extension agents with rural people are primarily with organized groups rather than with individuals, particularly in home demonstration work. Most home demonstration work is done with home demonstration clubs of rural women who hold regular monthly or more frequent meetings for instruction in some phase of home economics, home management, nutrition, or clothing construction and repair either from the county home demonstration agent, or from an unpaid local leader who in turn is instructed by the home demonstration agent, or a specialist from the college.

An important part of Extension work is the boys' and girls' 4-H Clubs, membership of which consists of rural boys and girls between the ages of ten and twenty years, there now being about 925,000 4-H Club members. Each club member conducts a useful project during the year under the direction of the county agent and an unpaid local leader.

While the primary interest of the Extension Service is in the open country, many women, boys, and girls in smaller towns are members of home demonstration or 4-H clubs, and the advice of Extension agents is available to community groups with reference to home plans, planting of home grounds, selection of furnishings, the raising of gardens, poultry and the like. The Bureau of Agricultural Engineering and the Agricultural Engineering Divisions of the State Colleges cooperate with the Extension Services in furnishing plans for rural homes and farm buildings, and most of the State Extension Services employ specialists in agricultural engineering and home management.

For the development of suburban communities and resettlement of rural people, the State Experiment Station and Extension staffs can be very helpful in the selection of land which is adapted to the production of part of the family living and the planning of inexpensive and convenient homes, the planning of grounds, the management of gardens, and small poultry flocks, advising home makers with reference to suitable diets for their families, simple health practices, and in many other ways.

